

Message Text

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SUBJ: 25TH SESSION UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. 25TH SESSION UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD GENEVA PERIOD OCTOBER 14-22 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FRANK L. KELLOGG (USA).

2. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TO EXECCOMM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER GAVE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF UNHCR, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, REGULAR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND SPECIAL "GOOD OFFICES" FUNCTIONS.

3. DURING GENERAL DEBATE DELEGATES WHO SPOKE WERE GENERALLY COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT UNHCR'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIELD OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES BOTH UNDER REGULAR PROGRAM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS. USDEL SEIZED OCCASION OF GENERAL DEBATE TO CITE USG'S SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BENEFIT UGANDAN ASIANS, SUDANESE REPATRIANTS, REPATRIANTS ON SUB-CONTINENT, AND DISPLACED CYPRIOTS. WHILE GIVING IMPORTANCE TO UNHCR'S SPLENDID EFFORTS IN FIELD OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, USDEL STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF REFUGEES WAS FUNCTION OF UNHCR HAVING PRIMACY OVER ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTED USDEL IN THIS REGARD.

4. SEVERAL DELEGATES OBSERVED THAT SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HELP THE REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORIES IN AFRICA TO RETURN AND SETTLE IN THEIR HOME-

LANDS. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT UNHCR SHOULD PREPARE IN COOPERATION WITH OAU AND UPON REQUEST OF PARTIES CONCERNED CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE REPATRIATION AND REESTABLISHMENT OF THESE REFUGEES.

5. THE CYPRUS SITUATION GAVE RISE TO SEVERAL HEATED EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE DELEGATES OF GREECE AND TURKEY AND THE OBSERVER OF CYPRUS. THE GREEK DELEGATE AND CYPRIOT OBSERVER STRESSED NEED FOR THE DISPLACED PERSONS TO BE REPATRIATED TO THEIR HOMES. THE TURKISH DELEGATE STATED THAT THE PROBLEM OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN CYPRUS HAD EXISTED FOR ELEVEN YEARS AND THAT THE POLITICAL PROBLEM RELATING TO CYPRUS HAD TO BE RESOLVED BY POLITICAL MEANS. ALL PARTIES CONCERNED NOTED WITH APPRECIATION UNHCR'S ROLE AS COORDINATOR OF U.N. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN CYPRUS

6. THE PROBLEM OF 100,000 KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ IN IRAN ALSO VENTILATED DURING GENERAL DEBATE. IN EXCHANGES BETWEEN DELEGATE FROM IRAN AND OBSERVER FROM IRAQ, WHICH BECAME RATHER POLITICIZED, IRANIAN DELEGATE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REPATRIATION OF THESE REFUGEES WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION. THE OBSERVER FROM IRAQ STATED THAT RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF IRAQ WAS IN CONTACT WITH IRANIAN RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY WITH VIEW TO PROMOTING RETURN OF KURDISH IRAQIS WHO PRESENTLY LIVING IN IRAN. HE INDICATED THAT IRAQI AMNESTY LAW WOULD BE APPLIED TO THESE PERSONS.

7. THE EXECCOMM APPROVED FINANCIAL TARGET OF UNHCR'S REGULAR PROGRAM FOR CY1975 IN AMOUNT OF \$12.6 MILLION INCLUDING UP TO \$340,000 FOR INCREASED ANNUITIES TO AGED AND HANDICAPPED REFUGEES IN CERTAIN ASYLUM COUNTRIES. THE USDEL OBSERVED WITH SURPRISE AND REGRET THAT NO PROVISIONS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR CY 1975 FOR KHMER REFUGEES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED TO OBSERVER OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN URGING UNHCR TO INCLUDE THE NECESSARY PROVISIONS FOR THIS REFUGEES GROUP. AS RESULT OF THESE INTERVENTIONS, UNHCR ASSURED THE EXECCOMM THAT FURTHER ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS GROUP AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY FUNDS AVAILABLE.

8. THE EXECCOM AUTHORIZED UNHCR TO ALLOCATE FROM EMERGENCY UNCLASSIFIED

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FUND UP TO \$2 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THE AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY ONE SINGLE EMERGENCY SHALL, AS HERETOFORE, NOT EXCEED \$500,000 IN ANY ONE YEAR.

9. WITH RESPECT PROTECTION, THE EXECCOMM REGISTERED DEEP CONCERN AT REPEATED FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES INCLUDING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ASYLUM AND NON-RE-

FOULEMENT. THE EXECCOMM REQUESTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MAKE THE NECESSARY REPRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN CASES OF SUCH VIOLATIONS. THE EXECCOMM REITERATED ITS VIEW THAT A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON TERRITORIAL ASYLUM SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONFERENCE BE PRECEDED BY A MEETING OF A GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO REVIEW AND REFINE THE PRESENT TEXT OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION. IN THIS REGARD IT WAS AGREED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE STATUS AND SITUATION OF DE FACTO REFUGEES.

10. THE 25TH SESSION ALTHOUGH RATHER MORE POLITICALLY CHARGED THAN PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF UNHCR EXECCOMM WAS HIGHLY INTERESTING AND USEFUL. ALL POINTS IN USG POSITION WERE MADE. DETAILED REPORT ON MEETING FOLLOWS.ABRAMS

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